Amendments to the Claims

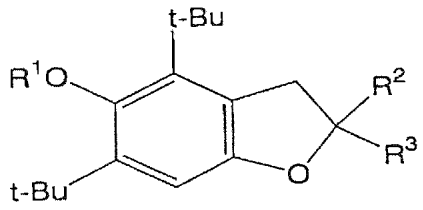
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of fatty liver or hepatic disease, comprising administering a compound of the formula (1):

[Chemical Formula 3]



(1)

where

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or an arylalkoxycarbonyl group; and

R^2 and R^3 are each independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, or R^2 and R^3 may jointly form a cycloalkyl group,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein R^2 and R^3 are each an unsubstituted alkyl group.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the unsubstituted alkyl group is an n-butyl group, an n-pentyl group, an n-hexyl group, or an n-heptyl group.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-butyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-hexyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, or 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-heptyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-

hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the treatment of hepatic disease is ascribed to leakage of hepatic enzymes.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic disease associated with the fatty liver.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is bacterial or chemical-induced hepatic function disorder.

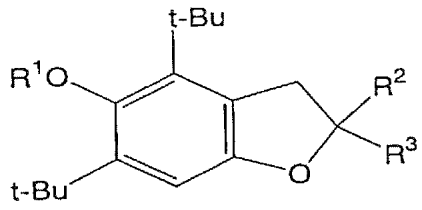
28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is chronic or acute hepatitis.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the hepatitis is viral.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic cirrhosis.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is liver cancer.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of fatty liver, comprising administering a compound of the formula (1):



(1)

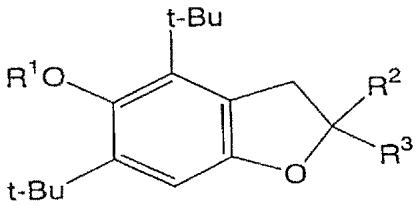
where

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or an arylalkoxycarbonyl group; and

R^2 and R^3 are each independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, or R^2 and R^3 may jointly form a cycloalkyl group,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of hepatic disease, comprising administering a compound of the formula (1):



(1)

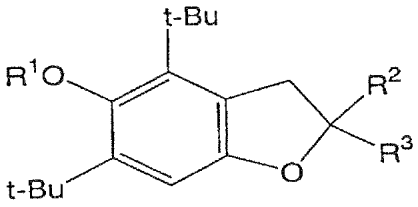
where

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or an arylalkoxycarbonyl group; and

R^2 and R^3 are each independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, or R^2 and R^3 may jointly form a cycloalkyl group,

to a patient in need of such treatment.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing an amount of aspartate aminotransferase leaking from liver cells into blood, comprising administering a compound of the formula (1):



(1)

where

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or an arylalkoxycarbonyl group; and

R^2 and R^3 are each independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, or R^2 and R^3 may jointly form a cycloalkyl group,

to a patient in need of such reduction.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34 wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.